

Service Date: March 24, 2004

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER Of the Application of)	UTILITY DIVISION
HAVRE PIPELINE COMPANY to increase)	DOCKET NO. D2003.8.101
Rates and Charges to its Direct Rural)	ORDER NO. 6520a
Farmstead Customers.)	

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ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL OF INCREASED RATES

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On August 1, 2003, the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) received an Application from Havre Pipeline Company (Havre) for authority to increase rates and charges for natural gas service to its Montana direct rural farmstead customers. The new rate for natural gas service to these customers will be \$3.9063 per MCF, an increase of \$1.8579 per MCF from the current rate of \$2.0484 per MCF. This increase will affect approximately 125 customers, for an average annual farm tap gas bill increase of \$475.00.
2. On August 29, 2003, the PSC issued a Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline with Petitions to Intervene due on September 30, 2003.
3. On September 10, 2003, the PSC issued a corrected Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline. The caption of the August 29, 2003 Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline incorrectly indicated that the Application was to decrease rates and charges.
4. On September 26, 2003 the Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC) filed a Petition to

Intervene. No other person petitioned for intervention in this docket.

5. On October 2, 2003, the PSC, pursuant to delegated staff authority, granted intervention to the MCC. The MCC conducted discovery in this matter and elected not to file intervenor testimony.

6. On November 6, 2003, the PSC issued Procedural Order No. 6520 outlining the procedural dates in this docket.

7. On December 8, 2003, the law firm of Browning, Kaleczyz, Berry & Hoven, P.C., by Kimberly A. Beatty, filed a Notice of Appearance in this Docket on behalf of Havre.

8. On February 3, 2004, the PSC directed staff to vacate the Procedural Order and issue a Notice of Opportunity to Request a Hearing.

9. On February 6, 2004 a Notice of Opportunity to Request a Hearing was issued with requests for hearing due by February 17, 2004. The PSC received no requests for hearing.

10. Having reviewed this application, the PSC finds that this increase is just and reasonable, and hereby accepts it.

11. Any Conclusions of Law which are properly Findings of Fact are hereby deemed to be such

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Applicant, Havre Pipeline Company, is a public utility as defined in 69-3-101, Montana Code Annotated (MCA). The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over public utilities, pursuant to its authority under Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.

2. The PSC has provided adequate public notice and an opportunity to be heard as required by 69-3-303, MCA, and Title 2, Chapter 4, MCA (Montana Administrative Procedures

Act).

3. The rates and rate structure in this order are just and reasonable. Sections 69-3-201 and 69-3-330, MCA.

4. Any Findings of Fact which are properly Conclusions of Law are hereby deemed to be such.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The PSC approves the rates and tariffs for Havre Pipeline Company, which shall be effective for service rendered on and after March 2, 2004.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana on this 2nd day of March, 2004 by a 4-0 vote.

BY THE ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BOB ROWE, Chairman

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

GREG JERGESON, Commissioner

JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the Commission reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.